

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
September 24, 2020
Tennessee State University – Electronic
MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Ali Sekmen, and Non-voting Member: Tiara Thomas.

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Steve Corbeil, Obie McKenzie, Deborah Cole, Richard Lewis; Joseph Walker III

University Staff Present: President Glenda Glover; Laurence Pendleton, General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Michael Harris, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Curtis Johnson, Chief of Staff; Dean Frank Stevenson, Assoc. Vice President of Student Affairs; Horace Chase, Vice President of Business and Finance; Dr. Frances Williams, Assoc. Vice President of Research & Sponsored Programs; Terrence Izzard, Assoc. Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Robbie Melton, Graduate School Dean and Assoc. Vice President and Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Martin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on September 24, 2020. Trustee Martin moved to make certain findings on the record regarding the necessity for conducting the meeting electronically without a physical quorum present due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee is set to take up important matters. Participation by electronic means is necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying guidance from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) and the State of Tennessee to limit face-to-face contact whenever possible. Electronic participation for the Committee meeting is necessary for the safety of Board members, staff, and guests.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Board Secretary Pendleton called the roll at the committee chair’s request. Trustees Pam Martin, Andre Johnson, Ali Sekmen, and Tiara Thomas were present. Secretary Pendleton announced the presence of a quorum.

Trustee Martin asked the Committee members to state now if any of the committee members cannot hear or speak with each other. No committee members answered in the affirmative. Trustee Martin also asked the committee members to indicate if someone is present with them from the location in which they are calling. No committee members indicated there was anyone present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18, 2020, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Martin proceeded to the approval of the June 18, 2020, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the June 18, 2020, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call.

IV. REPORT ON COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ISSUES

Trustee Martin announced the next item on the agenda is the report on COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic and student issues. This is an informational item and no vote is required. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked permission to the Board to introduce Provost Harris as the new Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. She then asked Provost Harris to respond to this agenda item. Provost Harris outlined the campus re-opening and response plan as detailed on pages #93 and #94 in the September 24, 2020 Board Meeting materials. His outline included the “Back to TSU for Fall 2020” campaign, access to education plan, course scheduling, streamlined advising, technology and access plan and listing of virtual events. Provost Harris stressed that the university, under the leadership of President Glover, offered a very innovative and comprehensive plan for re-opening during a pandemic. He added that TSU also offered 15% discount to all in-state students who were taking all classes online and a 10% discount to those who were out-of-state.

Trustee Martin congratulated President Glover, Provost Harris and then entire TSU team for putting this plan in place and agreed that when compared to any other university in the country, our plan would stand above the rest. Trustee Martin emphasized that it was President Glover who first said to her, “What if our students are not able to come back? We need to make sure that they are safe”. Trustee Martin also acknowledged that putting this comprehensive plan in place took long days and nights and again thanked everyone for putting in the extra time and effort in making this happen for our students.

Trustee Sekmen commented that it was commendable that we were able to distribute laptops to all of our students and faculty who needed a device. He asked that when faculty loan or purchase laptops that they be given administrative authority to put what they need onto the device. President Glover suggested that Trustee Sekmen, Provost Harris and Interim CIO Tim Warren all meet to discuss this request further.

Trustee Martin thanked President Glover, Provost Harris and all others for all that was done regarding this agenda item.

V. APPROVAL OF UPDATED TSU MISSION STATEMENT

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as approval of the updated TSU mission statement. This is an informational item and no vote is required. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to present on this item. Provost Harris explained that pursuant to Core Accreditation requirement 2.1, the institutional mission must reflect who we are and what we do, as an institution. In keeping with that mandate and to ensure compliance with the SACSCOC standard 2.1, a revision of the current mission statement was necessary. Through a strategic planning process and in consultation with TSU’s accreditation consultant, a new

mission statement was developed. As noted in the September 24, 2020 Board Meeting materials on page #97, the proposed mission statement reads:

Tennessee State University, through its legacy as an HBCU and land grant institution, transforms lives, prepares a diverse population of leaders, and contributes to economic and community development by providing affordable and accessible educational programs at various degree levels and promoting academic excellence through scholarly inquiry, teaching, research, lifelong learning, and public service.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Updated TSU Mission Statement, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Sekmen seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF TSU 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of TSU 2020 Strategic Plan. She asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting packet.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to comment on this agenda item. Provost Harris explained that between November, 2019 and July, 2020 several committees conducted institution analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) using supporting data to frame priorities. He stated that the entire campus community was engaged in providing feedback at several stages and based on this effort, the mission, vision, and core values were revised, and five strategic goals were identified. He added that this bold and transformative plan, "The Pathway to Excellence 2025," defines and addresses the challenges and opportunities facing higher education. Through its focus on student success, academic excellence and world-changing impact stand to position TSU for decades. The plan, "The Pathway to Excellence 2025" is detailed in the September 24, 2020 Board Meeting materials starting on page #100 through #119. Provost Harris mentioned that after completion of the University's plan, academic Colleges and Administrative units will develop integrated plans that are mapped to the institution's priorities and scorecard. He reported that his was a live document and will be evaluated periodically for enhancements and changes.

President Glover complemented Dean Haynes for spear-heading this project.

Trustee Sekmen identified the goal for growing enrollment as to him, the most important goal in the strategic plan. He also took the opportunity to praise President Glover on the approach taken in over-coming the SACSCOC probation issue. He stressed that everyone took ownership in the probation issue and the entire campus worked as one team. He then suggested that we should adopt the same approach with enrollment, where everyone should take ownership.

Provost Harris announced that measures were put in place to keep everyone engaged. He stated that he believed that people support what they help to build and so that is the approach being implemented. He added that mechanisms were now in place where every unit and department will be held accountable. We will continue working together.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the TSU 2020 Strategic Plan, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. APPROVAL OF OFF-CAMPUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM SITE: Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Applied Industrial Technologies at the Motlow State Community College – McMinnville Campus

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of off-campus academic program site: Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Applied Industrial Technologies at the Motlow State Community College – McMinnville Campus. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. The material is included in the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting packet.

Provost Harris discussed the relevance of expanding this program to Motlow State Community College and the McMinnville Campus. He pointed out that this was part of the larger strategic plan. He also stated that the state was focusing heavily on this area and it was in our best interest to position ourselves accordingly. Provost Harris also added that TSU will benefit from the transfer students coming from this program. President Glover commented that TSU now had a presence in 50 of the 95 counties in the state of Tennessee.

Trustee Sekmen added that Applied Industrial Technologies (AIT) was a good fit for TSU and that we might also consider offering Mechatronics in the future especially since Tennessee was becoming a “hot spot” for the automotive industry. He pointed out that companies such as GM and Nissan had moved in and that this expansion was very timely for TSU.

Trustee Martin moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Off-Campus Academic Program Site: Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Applied Industrial Technologies at the Motlow State Community College – McMinnville Campus, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. APPROVAL OF THE DISCONTINUANCE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the approval of the Discontinuance of Master of Science in Professional Science. She asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 24, 2020 board materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to comment on this item. He explained that the Professional Science Masters (PSM) will be consolidated into the proposed new MS degree in Environmental Sciences (pending approval by THEC) as a concentration in Geospatial Sciences. Provost Harris added that more students were interested in Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) courses and not the core which include business courses. The PSM degree program could not be sustained because its success was dependent on full participation and support of the College of Agriculture and other colleges at TSU; however, the other colleges did not come on board.

Provost Harris went on to explain that the new concentration in Geospatial Sciences within the Environmental Sciences MS degree will provide only such needed courses. During the 2019 Graduate Program Review, it was recommended that the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences where the PSM degree program is housed, find alternative and feasible method of delivering the GIS. After discussions with faculty in the GIS, PSM and the Environmental Sciences, there was unanimous agreement that the PSM program should be

consolidated and offered as a concentration within the proposed MS degree in Environmental Sciences.

Trustee Martin then moved to recommend to the full board the approval of the Discontinuance of Master of Science in Professional Science, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, board meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE FOCUS ACT REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL MISSION PROFILE FOR THE TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the approval of the FOCUS Act Required Institutional Mission Profile for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Trustee Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 24, 2020 board materials.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to comment on this agenda item. Provost Harris explained the significance of the Institutional Mission Profile and stressed that this was how TSU will be recognized. In stating this, he pointed out that there were some changes necessary to be made as compared to the current profile. Below are the changes which were made:

The proposed Institutional Mission Profile makes the following changes (as seen in the merged profile).

- *Added additional details regarding TSU's Carnegie clarification*
- *Added specificity to the geographic scope of our student placements and partnerships (local, state, national, international)*
- *Added a statement emphasizing our commitment and focus on recruitment, retention, and graduation*
- *Added language regarding our student career placements in diverse sectors (private, public, nonprofit)*
- *Added public service as a focus of TSU's curriculum*

The entire proposed profile and the current profile highlighting the recommended changes were all included in the September 24, 2020, Board Materials on pages #127 and #128.

Trustee Martin then moved to recommend to the full board the approval of the FOCUS Act Required Institutional Mission Profile for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

X. REPORT ON SACSCOC ACCREDITATION REVIEW MATTERS

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on SACSCOC accreditation review matters. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda items, as contained in the Board materials for the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting.

President Glover called on Provost Harris to announce the great news relating to this agenda item. Provost Harris reiterated why the university was on probation and all steps taken to reverse this probationary status. He applauded the efforts of the Deans, Chairs and most importantly, the efforts of Dr. Charlise Anderson.

Provost Harris then addressed the SACSCOC Decennial Review process as well and detailed the timeline which everyone was adhering to in order to have the reports completed and submitted on time. The timeline included the upcoming On-Site Reaffirmation Committee visit and the

time-frame for responding to any recommendations. He stipulated that by December, 2021 we should receive the SACSCOC Board of Trustees Reaffirmation decision.

President Glover then thanked everyone who participated in getting TSU off probation. She praised the efforts of everyone: faculty, staff and the leadership of Provost Harris. She commented that we all did this because everyone “had a mind to work”. We all accomplished this goal together.

Trustee Martin then thanked President Glover and Provost Harris for the report. She was then joined by all the other Trustees in applauding the efforts of everyone who had a hand in getting TSU off probation.

XI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Martin announced the next agenda item as the Academic Affairs Report. Information regarding this Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee agenda item is included in your board materials dated September 24, 2020. Trustee Martin asked President Glover and her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item.

President Glover asked Provost Harris to comment on this agenda item. Provost Harris detailed the outline found on pages #134 and #135 in the September 24, 2020 Board Meeting materials. He highlighted the work completed on the academic calendar, faculty handbook, strategic plan, personnel transitions and discipline specific accreditations. He also thanked everyone again for all the hard work put in to achieving these goals.

Provost Harris then went on to briefly mention some of the other programs that were being considered for the TSU curriculum.

Trustee Cole thanked President Glover and Provost Harris for “thinking outside of the box”. She then asked for a timeframe when updates will be made to the dashboard. Trustee McKenzie then commented on adding programs such as “the digitalization of money” in an effort to stay ahead of the market and exposing our students to the moving trend. President Glover agreed and welcomed continuing the conversation on this topic.

Trustee Martin then thanked President Glover and Provost Harris for the report.

XII. REPORT ON RESEARCH FUNDING

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as the report on research funding. Trustee Martin asked President Glover and her designees to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 24, 2020 board materials.

President Glover then asked Dr. Frances Williams to comment on this agenda item. Dr. Williams directed everyone to pages #139 and #140 of the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting materials. She announced that FY20 was a great year for grant funding at TSU, since that research awards exceeded the previous goal of \$50M for a total of \$55.2M.

Dr. Williams then highlighted some of the funding agencies responsible for helping us meet and exceed our goals. She also listed the diversity in grants awards.

Trustee Sekmen applauded this wonderful news of the amount of awarded grants. He then commented that the recent hires were doing an excellent job regarding grant writing. Trustee Sekmen added that the faculty should be rewarded for bringing in such high amounts of grant funding. Dr. Williams alluded to the fact the President Glover was working on an incentive program for the faculty regarding grant awards.

Trustee Martin then thanked President Glover and Dr. Williams for the report.

XIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Trustee Martin introduced the next item on the agenda as a Student Affairs report. Trustee Martin asked President Glover or her designee to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Information pertaining to this agenda item is included in the September 24, 2020 board materials.

President Glover asked Dean Frank Stevenson to provide pertinent information related to this agenda item. Since this was an informational discussion item, no vote was required. Dean Stevenson stated that regarding the COVID-19 Response to students, when compared to the other LGIs, TSU was doing extremely well. The two-week “safer in place” played a large part in minimizing the student exposure to the virus. Even amid the pandemic, the Student Affairs division was able to host “Welcome week” and student elections. In fact we experience the highest voter participation turnout. Voting for Mr. and Ms. TSU was also included in this election. “Power to the Polls” was another initiative held, along with Voter Registration Drives. An excess of 300 students showed up for the Drive and we were able to register over 100 students. The students are ready to have their voices heard. They are ready for this election.

Dean Stevenson added that another initiative held was Leadership Institute – Leadership TSU. The Career Center also hosted a virtual Career Fair where 169 companies participated, compared to 82 who did last year.

Dean Stevenson also noted that the institution set up a Bubble on campus for students who needed to be quarantined or isolated due to the COVID-19. We instituted daily student testing and results were received in 24 – 48 hours.

Regarding student conduct, Dean Stevenson stated that TSU continues to educate students about conflict resolution. He pointed out that on page #144 of the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting materials, there are diagrams illustrating analytical breakdown for student conduct. He stressed that there were two areas needing improvement: marijuana use on campus and sexual assault reporting.

Dean Stevenson was happy to announce that the students were doing a great job on campus, especially during these very different and unprecedented times. Trustee Tiara Thomas had been very instrumental in getting the student needs to administration. Last announcement was regarding the unveiling of the Tiger - a reminder of how we made it through this challenge.

Trustee Martin commended Dean Stevenson for everything that was done.

Trustee Thomas thanked the leadership at TSU for helping in making the transition back to school during this COVID-19 pandemic, very smooth. She thanked the administration for allowing students to have the option of paying only 25% of their balance in order to set up payment plans, and for extending the purge date. One request she had was to extend the “Tutor Me” availability to students to 8 to 10 hours per week. President Glover agreed that this was possible and suggested that further conversations be held with Provost Harris.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Martin asked if there was any additional business. Seeing none, she moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson which carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.